

Staff Sergeant Woodson married Joann Katharyne Snowden in 1952; the couple had two daughters and a son. He died in 2005 and was buried with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Last month, I joined Senator VAN HOLLEN and Representative TRONE in writing to Army Secretary Christine Wormuth to request that an award decision authority formally review and consider awarding the Medal of Honor to Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., posthumously. In June 2021, Commanding General of the First United States Army Thomas S. James, Jr., wrote in favor of Woodson receiving the Medal of Honor.

Woodson's widow Joann announced that if he were to receive the Medal of Honor posthumously, she would donate it to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

These stories are just two examples of Black-American soldiers who fought to defeat fascism during World War II while simultaneously enduring virulent racial discrimination as servicemen and back home in America as civilians.

After the Civil War and Reconstruction, powerful White officials in southern States sought to nullify the political outcome of the Civil War. They passed laws and instituted policies that enforced segregation.

We all know those laws: the Jim Crow laws, the Black Codes, the institutionalized segregation. The intent was to disenfranchise minority voters with poll taxes and literacy tests and voter intimidation.

Thanks to courageous leaders, we were able to reverse those laws. President Harry Truman integrated our military in 1948. Then, there was the landmark decision in 1954 of Brown v. Board of Education. We Marylanders are proud of Thurgood Marshall, a native son, with respect to the role that he played in arguing that case before the Supreme Court. In 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act and followed that historic legislation with the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and the Fair Housing Act in 1968.

Black Americans and other people of color have fought and died to preserve our freedom. As we celebrate Black History Month, if we want to honor Brigadier General Charles E. McGee and Staff Sergeant Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., and countless others like them, we need to continue to expand equal opportunity in America, and we can start by passing voting rights legislation, the need for which I have frequently spoken about on the Senate floor.

#### FLOOR VOTES

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, February 2, 2022.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: As you know, despite our collective efforts to encourage Members to vote on the Senate floor in a timely manner, votes are often left open well beyond the allotted time, frustrating a majority of Members from both sides of the aisle. Often, the outcome of the vote is not in doubt.

With this in mind and in order to expedite floor votes, we are instructing the Presiding Officer to close any vote in which: (a) one of the signatories below is the last remaining vote; and (b) the Member's vote would not change the outcome. However, on any particular vote, if a signatory requests that the vote be held open, they may do so by providing notice to their Cloakroom.

Sincerely,

Thom Tillis, Angus S. King, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Patrick J. Leahy, Kyrsten Sinema, Jon Tester, Ron Johnson, Amy Klobuchar, Jon Ossoff, John Barrasso, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Rick Scott.

Mark R. Warner, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Rob Portman, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Joni Ernst, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Crapo, Bill Hagerty, Richard Burr, Dan Sullivan, Debbie Stabenow, Roger Marshall, Jerry Moran, James E. Risch, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Kaine.

Lisa Murkowski, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Ben Sasse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Roger F. Wicker, Todd Young, John Boozman, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, Martin Heinrich, Robert Menendez.

Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Braun, Jeanne Shaheen, Deb Fischer, John Kennedy, Marco Rubio, Mitt Romney, Joe Manchin, III, Sherrod Brown, Bill Cassidy, John Cornyn, John Thune, Mark Kelly, Cory A. Booker, Richard Blumenthal, Brian Schatz.

Patrick J. Toomey, Lindsey Graham, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Gary C. Peters, Jeff Merkley, Rand Paul, Bernard Sanders, James M. Inhofe, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Kevin Cramer, Marsha Blackburn, Thomas R. Carper, Ron Wyden, Dianne Feinstein.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING CRUISE CUSTOMS

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the small business, Cruise Customs of Shepherdsville, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

It is not every week that I have the privilege of honoring a veteran-owned small business, but when I do, it is with profound respect and gratitude not only for this Kentucky entrepreneur,

but for our men and women in uniform. Cruise Customs was started by Chris Cruise, a veteran paratrooper who served in the 82nd Airborne Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After serving his country, like many veterans, Chris Cruise returned to the U.S. carrying with him the traumas of war. Woodworking became a sort of therapy for him, and he combined that passion for working with his hands with his deeply rooted patriotism and founded Cruise Customs in 2017.

Cruise Customs not only honors the great Nation that we live in, it also pays tribute to the wonderful State of Kentucky. The idea behind his business came from Chris and his wife Amber's desire to create something that honored both the Nation that he fought for and his wife's native State. The final product was a large American flag constructed from the wood used in old Kentucky bourbon barrels. While bourbon-barrel flags continue to be their most popular item, the business has expanded their scope of products offered. The Cruises' patriotic mission has remained at the heart of their business throughout its steady growth, as they broadened their service to the veteran community and to their local area when Cruise Customs' unique craftsmanship gained national recognition.

The whole Cruise Customs team use their dedication for service as inspiration for designing new products. These days, one can buy Chris' signature bourbon-barrel flag not only in a variety of sizes, one can also find various flags with a different colored stripe running through the center of the flag. The colors symbolize the business' support for various causes: blue, in honor of our Nation's police officers; red, to show their support for our Nation's fire fighters; pink, to spread breast cancer awareness and to champion its survivors. While these limited edition pieces stand out against their array of merchandise, the America "One Heartbeat" flag is perhaps their most impactful creation.

Their America "One Heartbeat" flag, a limited edition piece displaying the EKG sign of a heartbeat down the center stripe, was designed by Chris and Amber Cruise during the early days of the pandemic. Always wanting to give back to their community, Cruise Customs donated all proceeds from the sale of their America "One Heartbeat" flags to the medical frontline heroes at Norton Healthcare and U of L Health in Louisville. This noble idea quickly gained national attention, which allowed Cruise Customs to sell over 4,500 of these flags and donate over \$70,000 to their local medical community.

Cruise Customs' dedication to their community has not gone unnoticed. Last year, Chris Cruise was named one of Louisville Business First's Business Impact Award Nominees. Chris and Amber Cruise have also broadened their venture by opening and co-directing Kentucky's first local chapter of USA Cares, a nonprofit dedicated